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**CAPITAL CONFUSION:** The CIA has been one of the hot topics on the party circuit of late. At a Sulgrave Club reception a week ago former CIA official Walter Pforzheimer, who retired last August after continuous service since 1946, said it was time for everyone to speak out before the agency is destroyed. About the 210 firings ordered by March 31 by CIA Director Stansfield Turner, he said:

"Most of the people involved are very good people. I don't think the director knows or has ever talked to but a small percentage of them. He doesn't know what he's doing in this work. The directorate of operations came up with a list of those to go but he completely disregarded it.

"You see, this job is a bigger job than the admiral has ever had in his life, and it's too big for him. He has no rapport with his people. He has a credibility gap that is growing every day. He has completely lost control of his troops. He doesn't like them, he doesn't talk to them, they don't talk to him."

Said Admiral Turner at an embassy reception a few days ago: "Nobody in the CIA disagreed with the fact that 820 employees had to go . . . Perhaps it could have been done better but nobody has been fired." The letters, he said, "only asked them to report to the personnel office to see about getting another job in the agency . . . No covert people abroad are being removed."

"That is absolutely untrue," said Pforzheimer. "I know of five station chiefs abroad (who have been sacked), and there are possibly more. They are not cutting any clericals, only professionals, the people who keep the president informed for the security of the country."

Two ironies of the firings: "The key personnel officer for the deputy for operations (clandestine services) who was handling these cases received one of these notices, himself, and closed up his shop. He said, 'To hell with it,' and left," said Pforzheimer. "And one of the three-man panel who did the screening went back to his station outside the U.S. and found a pink slip waiting for him. This is Machiavellian."

"The letters," as Admiral Turner called them, were those mimeographed announcements entitled "Notification of Intention to Recommend Separation." Said one high-level agent who received such a notice, "If you said you would resign it wouldn't go in your record that you had been fired. It was blackmail."

As for all the screams we have heard about the CIA subverting the press every time the agency gets information from a reporter, the sacked official said, "Most of the American reporters I knew who gave me a great deal of information did it as their patriotic duty. It was information the U.S. government should have but information that was too sensitive to be published, and there was no conflict of interest with their obligations to their newspapers. To withhold it would have aided the enemy."